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## Pure Poison

We are pleased to see Richard Nixon endorse a recent editorial in the Los Angeles "Times" that attacked the so-called "John Birch Society" and its techniques of allegedly fighting Communism.

We are sure that Mr. Nixon did so, principally, because this super-secret group is thoroughly anti-American and potentially dangerous to American liberties besides. He may also have been motivated by the fact that some people may associate the society and right-wing Republicanism in a way to damage the GOP's reputation.

The head of this poisonous outfit is a retired Massachusetts business man named Robert Welch who long ago decided that democracy was a "perennial fraud" and that the U.S.A. is 40% to 60% Communist-controlled. In fact, as "Time" magazine related a week or so ago, Welch believes social security and the income tax are part of a Red plot, while (in Time's words) he makes these estimates of well-known Americans:

"The Eisenhower brothers: 'Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party. For (the former, President), there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and his actions. That word is treason.'"

"CIA Director Allen Dulles: 'The most protected and untouchable supporter of Communism, next to Eisenhower himself, in Washington.'"

"The late John Foster Dulles: 'A Communist agent.'"

The John Birch Society is reportedly organized into cells of 20 to 30 persons each in 35 States, while they use accusations of "Communism" to promote their causes. Welch's current project is the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren.

Nixon hit hard at the society's doctrine that the end justifies the means. He might well have pointed out, too, that this collection of McCarthyite fanatics, 20th century Know-Nothings and Ku Klux mentalities is fully as subversive as the Communists themselves.